

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for micro-payments in an E-commerce system,
5 the method comprising:

creating a record of usage of the E-commerce system for
each system user based on transactional documents transmitted in
the E-commerce system;

storing the record of usage on a computer readable medium;

retrieving the record of usage in a periodic manner;

electronically creating an invoice based on the record of
usage, wherein the fee established in the invoice is dependant
upon system usage by each system user; and

invoicing the system users.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the invoicing is
performed via electronic mail.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the invoicing is
20 performed by a third party by incorporating fees for usage of an
E-commerce system into the third party's billing.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the third party is a telecommunication service provider.

5 5. The method of claim 3, wherein the third party is a banking institution.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the record of usage comprises the type of transaction document, the date and time of transmission of the transactional document, and the addressee of the transactional document for each transactional document.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the record of usage further comprises the amount of memory consumed by each server side user's database.

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8. The method of claim 1, wherein the record of usage is stored in a database on one or more servers in the Internet.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the record of usage is retrieved by a software agent loaded on the server side of the E-commerce system.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the record of usage comprises a record of requests for quotation, submitted quotations, submitted proposals, signed contracts for sale or purchase, purchase orders under a contract, and one-time purchase orders.

11. A method for billing users of an E-commerce system based upon each user's usage of the system, the method comprising:

creating a record of usage of the E-commerce system by each system user based on transactional documents transmitted in the E-commerce system on the server side of an E-commerce system;

compiling the record of usage in a database;

extracting usage information from the database in a periodic manner;

combining the usage information with pricing information and transactional documents, which have been accounted for to determine usage fees for each user on the server side of an E-commerce system;

electronically creating an invoice wherein the fee established in the invoice is dependant upon system usage by

each system user; and

invoicing the system users.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the invoicing is
5 performed via electronic mail.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the invoicing is
performed by a third party by incorporating fees for usage of an
E-commerce system into the third party's billing.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the third party is a
telecommunication service provider.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the third party is a
15 banking institution.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein the database comprises
the time period of the set of records contained therein, the
name of the user's base where the billing is being made, the
20 present size of the server side user's database, the average
size of the server side user's database, and total number of

remitted documents by document type for the period of the records.

17. The method of claim 11, wherein the record of usage
5 comprises a record of requests for quotation, submitted quotations, submitted proposals, signed contracts for sale or purchase, purchase orders under a contract, and one-time purchase orders.

18. A machine-readable medium having coded thereon program
code, wherein the program code is executed by one or more
machines over a machine network, the machines implementing a
method for performing e-commerce transactions, comprising the
steps of:

15 creating a record of usage of the E-commerce system for each system user based on transactional documents transmitted in the E-commerce system;

storing the record of usage on a computer readable medium;

retrieving the record of usage in a periodic manner;

20 electronically creating an invoice based on the record of usage, wherein the fee established in the invoice is dependant upon system usage by each system user; and

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